

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 29

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the conviction of ten members of Iran's Jewish community.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2001

Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the conviction of ten members of Iran's Jewish community.

Whereas on the eve of the Jewish holiday of Passover 1999, 13 Jews, including community and religious leaders in the cities of Shiraz and Isfahan, were arrested by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and accused of spying for the United States and Israel;

Whereas the 13 defendants were tried in a Revolutionary Court that was closed to all independent journalists, outside media, international observers, and family members;

Whereas no evidence was brought forth at these trials other than taped "confessions";

Whereas Jews in Iran are prohibited from holding any positions that would give them access to state secrets;

Whereas the judge in the case also served as prosecutor, chief investigator, and arbiter of punishment;

Whereas the Secretary of State has identified the case of the 13 Jews in Shiraz as “one of the barometers of United States-Iran relations”;

Whereas countless nations have expressed their concern for these individuals and especially their human rights under the rule of law;

Whereas ten of the 13 Jews were convicted on July 1, 2000, of spying for Israel, and were sentenced to prison terms of four to 13 years;

Whereas the head of state of Iran has the authority to pardon the ten Iranian Jews;

Whereas the international community, including former President Clinton, has condemned the convictions;

Whereas Iran must show signs of respecting human rights as a prerequisite for improving its relationship with the United States; and

Whereas President Khatami and the Iranian Parliament were elected on a platform of moderation and reform: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that the
 3 United States Government—

4 (1) should condemn, in the strongest possible
 5 terms, the arrest of the 13 Jews by the authorities
 6 of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the unfair proce-
 7 dures employed against them leading up to and

1 throughout their trials, and the convictions of ten of
2 the 13 Jews by such authorities;

3 (2) should demand that these convictions be
4 overturned and that the individuals be released
5 forthwith;

6 (3) should call on the Government of Iran to
7 pardon the ten Iranian Jews; and

8 (4) should ensure that Iran's handling of this
9 case is a benchmark for determining the nature of
10 current and future United States-Iran relations.

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